

# ECPR Standing Group on **Political communication**



Dear members of the Standing Group on Political Communication,

We hope you and your loved ones are doing well! Below please find information about the ECPR general conference; a call for abstracts for a conference on right-wing populism, the media and migration; a call for papers for a special issue on negative politics; a call for papers for the virtual conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics; two job openings for a PhD position; and three ECPR editorial vacancies.

If you have news you want included in the next newsletter, please email: [l.aaldering@vu.nl](mailto:l.aaldering@vu.nl).

Kind regards,

The Steering Committee of the ECPR's standing group on Political Communication

Laura Jacobs  
Linda Bos  
Katjana Gattermann  
Jonas Lefevere  
Loes Aaldering

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## **ECPR General Conference 2021**

The ECPR General Conference 2021 in Innsbruck (30 August - 3 September) will include the section 'Political Communication in Times of Crisis' of our standing group, organized by Laura Jacobs (Université Libre de Bruxelles) and Jakob-Moritz Eberl (University of Vienna). The program for the upcoming virtual ECPR General Conference with information about discussant and panel chairs is now out (<https://ecpr.eu/Events/Event/SectionDetails/1139>). There will be 10 panels for the political communication section with a total of 48 papers. With 75 submissions and 10 panels allocated by ECPR (increased from 8), this means the acceptance rate was 64%. Registration will open for participants from June 8 until July 20. Until June 6, you can contact the ECPR General Conference organization to notify them of any scheduling requests by completing this [form](#).

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## Call for Abstracts: Conference 'After the "Summer Of Migration": Right-Wing Populism, Media and Affects'

**Organizers:** Peace Institute (Slovenia) and University of Vienna (Austria)

**Date:** 16–17 September 2021

**Abstract deadline:** 7 June 2021

**Location:** Ljubljana (online or hybrid)

**Link:** <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/after-the-summer-of-migration-right-wing-populism-media-and-affects/>

**Contact:** [mojca.frelih@mirovni-institut.si](mailto:mojca.frelih@mirovni-institut.si)

### Description:

The conference focuses on the nexus between political parties, media, and right-wing populism since the so-called 2015 summer of migration in Europe with an affect perspective. The historical background is the erosion of party democracy and the rise of populist democracy. Classical political leadership is declining, giving centrality to personalisation and mediatisation of politics, and above all, populist leaders who exploit social media as new opportunity structures that are becoming a substitute for political debate. On the upswing are right-wing populist actors who aim at mobilising against the elite and internal and external others. The growing number of refugees fleeing to European countries along the Balkan route from war-torn and economically devastated zones fuelled the populist upsurge across Europe, as refugees were increasingly regarded as dangerous, culturally deviant, and a threat to the national security and the welfare system. The COVID-19 period has appeared as yet another crisis that deepened social inequalities and accelerated the invisibility of minorities. The conference intends to debate the populist production of politics of fear and securitisation, which addresses the emotions and affects of people and converts fear of economic and social decline into anger against migrants. The dynamic interplay between political strategies and media practices—the media-political parallelism—is of central concern, i.e. how the policy frames of the political field and the media are distributed and become common sense. The focus is also to understand how affective populist appeals shape public opinion on migration and how they mobilise people's political and voting preferences. This conference is the final event of the Slovenian-Austrian research project POP-MED.

### Guidelines:

We welcome papers addressing one or several of the issues mentioned above. We wish to attract a diverse range of participants from a variety of countries and backgrounds. There is no fee for attending and participating at the conference. The conference language is English. Proposals for papers should include the author's/authors' name(s), institutional affiliation, email address, together with a paper title, abstract of 300–500 words and a short biographical information.

Proposals should be sent by 7 June 2021 to Mojca Frelih: [mojca.frelih@mirovni-institut.si](mailto:mojca.frelih@mirovni-institut.si).

Notification of acceptance by 25 June 2021.

### Key note speakers:

prof. Zizi Papacharissi, University of Illinois Chicago, Department of Communication

prof. Lance Bennett, University of Washington, Center for Communication & Civic Engagement

### Organizing committee:

Mojca Pajnik, Associate Professor of Media and Communications at the University of Ljubljana and Researcher at The Peace Institute, Ljubljana; Birgit Sauer, Professor of Political Science at University of Vienna; Iztok Šori, PhD in Sociology, Researcher and Director of the Peace Institute; Otto Penz, Sociologist at the University of Vienna; Mojca Frelih, MA in Sociology, researcher at the Peace Institute.

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## Special Issue Politics and Governance - Negative Politics: Leader Personality, Negative Campaigning, and the Oppositional Dynamics of Contemporary Politics

*Editor(s):* Alessandro Nai (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Diego Garzia (University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Loes Aaldering (Free University Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Frederico Ferreira da Silva (University of Lausanne, Switzerland) and Katjana Gattermann (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

Much of contemporary political dynamics have a *negative* component. Electoral campaigns increasingly promote political attacks against opponents; partisan differences in voters are morphing into affective polarization and profound dislike of the other camp; negative partisanship leads citizens to vote against disliked candidates instead of in favor of liked ones; candidates with dark and uncompromising personality traits are on the rise worldwide; news media are historically dragged towards sensational coverage of political events and the use of a conflict framing, and new online (and social) media follow suit; and waves of mass protests regularly shook the established political order. These developments all share an oppositional component and tend to rely on political narratives framed negatively. Indeed, in the background of many of these developments are the fundamental dynamics of entrenched “negativity biases”—according to which negative considerations have, when compared to equivalent positive considerations, a stronger effect and saliency.

Yet, research on these phenomena has mostly evolved on separate tracks. The thematic issue takes stock of these separate strands of research and brings together empirical work on election campaigning, leader personality, negative voting, and antagonistic political attitudes towards the establishment of an integrated framework on “negative politics.” As such, the thematic issue invites work that tackles one or more of the following issues (e.g.):

How to explain the rise of political leaders with a “darker” personality profile (e.g., low agreeableness, high narcissism, low integrity)?

Are negative personality profiles in political leaders more successfully (e.g., electorally) than positive profiles?

What are the effects of elite polarization and the use of negativity, incivility, and populist communication on affective polarization and negative voting?

Who likes negative politics? What are the “dark” individual underpinnings (e.g., in terms of attitudes or personality traits) that moderate the effectiveness of negative communication or drive participation to protest events?

What is the relation between negative campaigning and negative voting and negative partisanship?

How are negative voting and negative partisanship related to mass protests and political representation?

How do patterns of social media consumption, content exposure, and types of interactions relate to the development of negative attitudes towards parties/candidates?

The scope of the thematic issue is empirical in nature, and as such priority will be given to empirical investigations presenting new and compelling observational or experimental evidence—even more so if comparative and cross-sectional in nature. This being said, we also welcome meta-analyses, systematic literature reviews, and critical theoretical contributions.

### *Instructions for Authors:*

Authors interested in submitting a paper for this issue are asked to consult the journal's instructions for authors and submit their abstracts (maximum of 250 words, with a tentative title) through the abstracts system ([here](#)). When submitting their abstracts, authors are also asked to confirm that they are aware that Politics and Governance is an open

access journal with a publishing fee if the article is accepted for publication after peer-review (corresponding authors affiliated with our institutional members do not incur this fee).

**Submission of Abstracts:** 1-15 December 2021

**Submission of Full Papers:** 15-30 April 2022

**Publication of the Issue:** October/December 2022

More information can be found here:

<https://www.cogitatiopress.com/politicsandgovernance/pages/view/nextissues#NegativePolitics>

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## **Call for papers: Virtual Conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics**

**Where:** Zoom

**When:** 13-16 September 2021

**Deadline for abstracts:** 5 July 2021

On **13-16 September 2021**, the seventh conference of the International Journal of Press/Politics, focused on academic research on the relationship between media and political processes around the world, will be held virtually. **Professor Young Mie Kim** from the University of Wisconsin will deliver a keynote lecture. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **5 July 2021**. Attendees will be notified of acceptance by **12 July 2021**. Full papers based on accepted abstracts will be due **1 September 2021**. A selection of the best full papers presented at the conference will be published in the journal after peer review.

**The conference will be free to attend.** There will be a voluntary conference registration fee for presenters of GBP 30. Attendees will need to register to receive the secure link to participate in the conference, and those who want to contribute to the conference budget will be able to make a symbolic donation of GBP 5. The software will be able to host up to 500 participants at any time. Recordings of the conference video feed will be made available to the public shortly after the event.

The virtual conference brings together scholars conducting internationally oriented or comparative research on the intersection between news media and politics around the world. It aims to provide a forum for academics from a wide range of disciplines, countries, and methodological approaches to advance research in this area. The conference will be held on four days, in half-day sessions alternating mornings and afternoons that will include presentations and networking sessions. The program of the 2020 conference, which adopted a similar format, is available at <https://cristianvaccari.com/2020/07/21/program-of-the-2020-international-journal-of-press-politics-virtual-conference-21-24-september-2020/>.

Examples of relevant topics include, but are not limited to, the political implications of changes in media systems; the importance of digital media for engaging with news and politics; analysis of the factors affecting the quality of political information and public discourse; studies of the role of entertainment and popular culture in how people engage with current affairs; studies of relations between political actors and journalists; analyses of the role of visuals and emotion in the production and processing of public information; and research on political communication during and beyond elections by government, political parties, interest groups, and social movements. The journal and the conference have a particular interest in studies that adopt comparative approaches, represent substantial theoretical or methodological advances, or focus on parts of the world that are under-researched in the international English language academic literature.

Titles and abstracts for papers (**maximum 300 words**) are invited by **5 July 2021**. The abstract should clearly describe the key question, the theoretical and methodological approach, the evidence the argument is based on, as well as its wider implications and the extent to which they are of international relevance.

Please send submissions via the online form available at <http://bit.ly/IJPP2021>.

The conference is organized by Cristian Vaccari (Loughborough University, Editor-in-Chief of IJPP). Please contact Professor Vaccari with questions at [c.vaccari@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:c.vaccari@lboro.ac.uk).

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## Job Opening

**Where:** University of Fribourg

**Position:** PhD

**Topic:** Political Communication and Media

**For:** 5 years

**With:** Alexandra Feddersen

**Deadline:** 01-09-2021

**More information:** <https://www.unifr.ch/dcm/fr/assets/public/files/jobs/2104AssFeddersen.pdf?&p=1>

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## Job Opening

**Where:** KU Leuven

**Position:** PhD Researcher

**Topic:** Social Data Science

**Deadline:** 31-05-2021

**More information:** <https://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/jobs/60023262?hl=en&lang=en>

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## ECPR Editorial Vacancies:

**Deadline** for all ECPR editorial vacancies: May 31, 2021

### [Co-Editorship of the European Political Science Review \(EPSR\)](#)

We are seeking an energetic political scientist, ideally with some experience of the international publishing industry. Applications are welcomed from applicants from an ECPR Member institution, or an institution committed to joining the ECPR for the duration of the Editorship. The role is for six years, starting officially on 1 October 2021, with an end of September handover and review by the Publications Subcommittee of the ECPR at the mid-point.

### [Co-Editorship of European Political Science \(EPS\)](#)

We are seeking a dynamic political scientist with expertise in quantitative methods, ideally with some experience of the international publishing industry. Applications are welcomed from applicants from an ECPR Member institution, or an institution committed to joining the ECPR for the duration of the Editorship. The role is for six years, starting 1 October 2021, with a review by the Publications Subcommittee of the ECPR at the mid-point.

### [Co-Editorship of the Comparative Politics series](#)

We are seeking an energetic political scientist, ideally with some experience of the international publishing industry. Applications are welcomed from applicants from an ECPR Member institution, or an institution committed to joining the ECPR for the duration of the Editorship. The role is for six years, starting 1 October 2021, with a review by the Publications Subcommittee of the ECPR at the mid-point.

**\*\*The ECPR is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and encourages applicants from all backgrounds to apply\*\***